

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An input unit disposed on an equipment having a plurality of operation modes, for inputting a user's instruction to the equipment, comprising:

a cross key having a crossing part and switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the input unit ~~equipment for presenting functions thereof~~; and

a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, arranged to be wedged in said crossing part of said cross key, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user,

wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the function assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions.

2. (canceled) .

3. (previously presented) An input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said display further displays information related to an operation state of the equipment.

4. (previously presented) An input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein a background color of said display is changed in accordance with an operation state of the equipment.

5. (currently amended) An input unit disposed on an equipment having a plurality of operation modes, for inputting a user's instruction to the equipment, comprising:

a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user; and

a plurality of switch portions arranged in surroundings of said display at positions sandwiching said display so as to oppose to each other, said switch portions being physically disposed on the input unit ~~equipment for presenting functions thereof~~,

wherein said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions respectively assigned to said switch portions.

6. (previously presented) An input unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein said switch portions are respectively arranged at four positions including an upper, a lower, a right, and a left portion of said display.

7. (currently amended) An input unit disposed on an equipment having a plurality of operation modes, for inputting a user's instruction to the equipment, comprising:

a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user; and

a switch portion arranged in surroundings of said display, said switch portion being physically disposed on the input unit ~~equipment for presenting functions thereof~~, and said switch portion is being assigned to ~~with a plurality of the functions including at least a the~~ function associated with a relative position with respect to said display.

8. (currently amended) An input unit disposed on an equipment having a plurality of operation modes for inputting a user's instruction to the equipment, comprising:

a display for presenting functions corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user; and

a plurality of switch portions arranged in surroundings of said display, said switch portions being physically disposed on the input unit ~~equipment for presenting functions thereof~~, and said switch portions respectively being assigned with to the functions corresponding to relative positions of said plurality of switch portions with respect to said display.

9. (currently amended) An information recording apparatus for recording external information, including an input unit disposed on the recording apparatus for transmitting a user's

instruction to said information recording apparatus,

said input unit comprising

a mode switch for setting an operation mode of said information recording apparatus;

a cross key having switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the recording apparatus; and

a display arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user,

wherein said cross key is physically disposed on the recording apparatus for presenting functions thereof said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions.

10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a display unit for displaying said information,

wherein said input unit and said display unit are arranged on the same face of said information recording apparatus as each other.

13. (currently amended) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a display unit for displaying said information,

wherein said input unit and said display unit are arranged on the same face of said information recording apparatus as each other.

14. (original) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said input unit is arranged on a face of said information recording apparatus that faces a user

when the user uses said information recording apparatus in such a manner that said input unit is positioned at an upper portion of a center of the face on a right side of the center.

15. (previously presented) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said display is arranged to have a plurality of background colors, and one of said plurality of background colors is selected in accordance with an operation mode of said information recording apparatus.

16. (original) An information recording apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein said plurality of background colors include a color for a recording state and another color for a playback state.

17. (currently amended) A digital camera for capturing an image, comprising:
a mode switch for setting an operation mode of the digital camera;
an image-capturing unit operable to capture an image;
a capture controlling unit operable to control said image-capturing unit;
a processing unit operable to process said image; and
an operating unit operable to transmit a user's instruction at least to said processing unit disposed on the digital camera,
said operating unit comprising
a cross key having switch portions, said cross key being physically disposed on the digital camera; and
a display for presenting at least a function corresponding to the operation mode selected by the user, arranged to be wedged in a crossing of said cross key, said function being different in accordance with the operation mode selected by the user, wherein said cross key is physically disposed on the digital camera for presenting functions thereof said display displays in the vicinity of said switch portions information related to the functions assigned to at least one of said respective switch portions.

18. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said display displays

information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

19. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 18, wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

20. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 19, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

21. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 1, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

22. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

23. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 22, wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

24. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 23, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

25. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 5, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

26. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

27. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 26, wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

28. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 27, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

29. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 7, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

30. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 8, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

31. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 30, wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

32. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 31, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

33. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 8, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

34. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 9, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

35. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 34, wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

36. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 35, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

37. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 9, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.

38. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 17, wherein said display displays information related to the operation mode selected by the user at the center thereof.

39. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 38, wherein said information related to the function assigned to said respective switch portions is presented as a symbol.

40. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 39, wherein said information related to the operation mode selected by the user is presented as a symbol.

41. (new) The input unit as claimed in claim 17, wherein said switch portions surround substantially the entire circumference of said display.